Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Upper South Platte WS - Cropland/Water Quality/Qua

Program:	**Ranking Date:**	**Application Number:**
Ranking Tool: Upper South Platte WS - Cropland/Water Quality/Qua		**Applicant:**
Final Ranking Score:		**Address:**
Planner:		**Telephone:**
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
1. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	Yes O or No O
1. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Increase carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5. a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6. a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
6. e. Implement precision agricultural methods?	Yes O or No O
Strategic Initiative – Energy Conservation and Sustainable Production Energy Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	

7. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8. a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	Yes O or No O
Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9. a. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes O or No O

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the project reduce the amount of nutrients/pesticides/salt/selenium or other pollutants entering ground or surface waters?	Yes O or No O
2. Will the planned practice(s) promote water conservation on the contracted acres?	Yes O or No O
3. Will the project address invasive or noxious plants on contracted acres?	Yes O or No O
4. Will the project result in an improvement to the existing management system to meet the state AFO/CAFO regulations?	Yes O or No O
5. Does the project increase the diversity of desirable plants on grazing lands?	Yes O or No O
6. Does the project improve the health of riparian and/or wetland areas?	Yes O or No O
7. Is the proposed project located within the State's NRCS wildlife priority area, and do the planned practices address the habitat needs of the targeted species designated in the wildlife priority area or is the plan designed for pollinator habitat?	Yes O or No O
8. Will the proposed project reduce field soil loss to below "T" or will the planned practice(s) reduce irrigation induced/streambank erosion?	Yes O or No O
9. Does the applicant meet one or more of the following conditions: a. Did the applicant successfully complete any past EQIP contract(s) in full compliance; or b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance or c. Applicant has never participated in EQIP?	Yes O or No O
10. Has any portion of the offered acreage been set aside or inventoried by a Cultural Resources Specialist or Archaeologist?	Yes O or No O
11. Does the proposed project support organic transition (farming operation to be used while transitioning from conventional to organic production)?	Yes O or No O

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Irrigation System Improvement	
1. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Subsurface Drip system from a flood system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
2. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Subsurface Drip system from a gated pipe system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
3. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Subsurface Drip system from a high pressure (>50 psi) impact sprinkler (traveling sprinkler, side-roll, high pressure center pivot) system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
4. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Subsurface Drip system from a low pressure nozzle (15-45 psi) center pivot sprinkler system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
5. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Low Pressure nozzle (15-45 psi) Center Pivot sprinkler system from a flood system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
6. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Low Pressure nozzle (15-45 psi) Center Pivot sprinkler system from a gated pipe system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O

7. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Low Pressure nozzle (15-45 psi) Center Pivot sprinkler system from a high pressure (>50 psi) impact sprinkler (traveling sprinkler, side-roll, high pressure center pivot) system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
8. Will the irrigation system be converted to a high pressure (>50 psi) Impact Sprinkler (traveling sprinkler, side-roll, high pressure center pivot) system from a flood system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
9. Will the irrigation system be converted to a high pressure (>50 psi) Impact Sprinkler (traveling sprinkler, side-roll, high pressure center pivot) system from a gated pipe system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
10. Will the irrigation system be converted to a Gated Pipe system from a flood system? (system on the predominant acres)	Yes O or No O
New Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline	
11. Will a new Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline be constructed to replace/improve a ditch or pipeline on a sandy, loamy sand, sandy loam, loam or silty loam soil type? (water delievered to the field - based on predominant soil type) Answer no if any "yes" answers given on questions 1-10.	Yes O or No O
12. Will a new Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline be constructed to replace/improve a ditch or pipeline on a sandy clay loam, clay loam, silt, silty clay, or silty clay loam soil type? (water delievered to the field - based on predominant soil type) Answer no if any "yes" answers given on questions 1-10.	Yes O or No O
13. Will a new Ditch Lining or Irrigation Pipeline be constructed to replace/improve a ditch or pipeline on a sandy clay loam, clay loam, silt, silty clay, or silty clay loam soil type? (water delievered to the field - based on predominant soil type) Answer no if any "yes" answers given on questions 1-10.	Yes O or No O
Land Conversion - Irrigated to Non-irrigated	
14. Are the contracted acres to be converted to dryland cropping or perennial vegetation, and is the water source a Surface Diversion?	Yes O or No O
15. Are the contracted acres to be converted to dryland cropping or perennial vegetation, and is the water source Ground Water?	Yes O or No O
16. Is the land to be converted to Perennial Vegetation?	Yes O or No O
17. Is the land to be converted to Dryland cropping?	Yes O or No O
18. Will this be a Permanent conversion?	Yes O or No O
19. Will this be a 5 year conversion?	Yes O or No O
20. Will this be a 3 year conversion?	Yes O or No O
Management	
21. Will the participant convert to non-irrigated perennial vegetation, and implement Prescribed Grazing (528) or Wildlife Habitat Management (645)?	Yes O or No O
22. Irrigation Water Management: Will the participant carry out Irrigation Water Management (449) using Soil Moisture Monitoring, Record Keeping, and a System Measuring Device? Soil moisture Monitoring - gypsum blocks, ET, tensiometer, hand-feel method; Record Keeping - must include H2O applied, rainfall, consumptive use, and soil moisture storage; System Measuring Device - weir, flume, flowmeter, or Certified Power Consumption Coefficient Test.	Yes O or No O
23. Moisture Management: Will the participant carry out No-Till/Strip-Till/Direct Seed (329) to manage moisture on 100% of the cropland acres?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation	
25. Does the plan address energy conservation with the application of a Conservation Power Plant (practice code 716)?	Yes O or No O

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices

Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues: National Issues: **Final Ranking Score:**

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: **Signature Date:**	**Application Signature Not Required for Contract Development unless required by State policy:** **Signature Date:**